

THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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Double jeopardy in discipline at MBA

By Deke Shearon

At approximately 1:00 AM on a night in mid-March of this past year, David Braren was walking back to his hotel room at the Sunshine Suites in the Cayman Islands. He wasn't ready for the night to end. In the parking lot, he saw a group of girls he knew, who in turn introduced him to four locals they had met at a nearby club. The locals offered Braren, the girls, and another one of Braren's friends who had just appeared some marijuana. The girls declined the offer, but Braren and his friend decided to smoke. They stuffed the remains of the roach into a bottle afterwards and threw it underneath the car. Braren's friend, tired and stoned, retired to his room. Braren decided to stay outside a little longer.

Just then, a Suburban followed by two Caymanian police cars pulled up. They had received a call from someone inside the hotel complaining of drug use in the parking lot. Officers searched the area in and around the car, and in no time produced the roach stowed underneath the vehicle, in addition to another joint found in the glove compartment. Even though Braren had no knowledge of that

joint, and no actual connection to the car or the locals, he was held responsible for it. Braren and the locals were arrested. The officers then informed Braren they were going to search his room.

Braren's roommates, Ben Derry and Brad Miller, also MBA seniors, had spent the better part of the night in the hotel room. Miller had a sinus infection. Derry had partied hard the night before and had purchased some marijuana from another local. He suggested to Miller that they roll a joint by hollowing out a cigarette. Miller, who had recently stopped smoking marijuana, began working on the cigarette with mixed emotions. This process took about an hour, and by the time Miller finished packing the marijuana, both decided to save it for the next day. Miller was relieved by the decision to put it off, and hid the joint and the small amount of marijuana remaining in a drawer in the room. Moments later, the two heard a knock at the door.

Miller, in his boxers, looked through the peephole of the room and saw his friend Braren, and two cops

on either side of him. He opened the door.

"We know you have drugs in here," the officers said, "we can either tear your room apart or you can just give them to us."

The cops' ploy paid off. Miller retrieved the marijuana-filled cigarette, and Derry and Miller were arrested, spending the night in jail. The next day, one of the organizers of the trip, a local lawyer, gave them advice on the English court system in the British-controlled Cayman Islands. A trial was set for the next day. At the trial, Braren was charged with three counts of possession, and Derry and Miller were both charged with one count of possession. Braren was fined about \$400US; Derry and Miller were fined about \$190US. Both fines were relatively lenient. They were released from custody.

I heard this story my first day back to classes after spring break. About 20 or 30 students from MBA and Harpeth Hall go to the Caymans every year. It is not a school-affiliated trip; the trips are usually organized by a

group of parents, as in this case. The story was being discussed by the entire student body days after it happened.

"I was optimistic," Braren recalls, "I thought maybe people would keep their mouths shut. But after the first day of class when I heard everyone talking about it, I knew there was no way the school wasn't going to hear it, and there was no way the school wasn't going to do anything about it."

He was right, too; the first Wednesday of post-Spring Break classes, Mr. Caudill informed Braren, Derry, and Miller that there would be a Discipline Committee meeting the next morning. MBA's handbook explains the Discipline Committee as a body hearing "cases concerning student behavior that range from excessive demerits to serious infractions of school policies including off-campus behavior that brings discredit to MBA." The most the body can do is make a recommendation to the Headmaster. It consists of 9 teachers and 2 faculty-chosen students.

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Alice Randall: Nashville's best new novelist

By Jack Bryant- Assistant Editor

"Speak up boy, you aren't down south anymore." This mantra repeated by her father influenced Alice Randall, author of the best selling novel *The Wind Done Gone*, to expose to the world an incorrect picture of black society as portrayed in Margaret Mitchell's well known novel *With the Wind*. Mitchell's novel "shamed me and my mother as well as many generations of African American women," claims Randall. The Mitchell Trust alleged that *The Wind Done Gone* was an infringement of the copyright already existing making it an unlicensed sequel to *Gone With The Wind*. At first favoring the Mitchell Trust, a U.S. District Court of Northern Georgia injunction banned the publishing of Randall's novel, which was set for June 6, 2001. However, when appealed, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta lifted the ban. *The Wind Done Gone* got

published.

Before the ban of *The Wind Done Gone* was lifted, Mrs. Randall received support from many of her famous colleagues. For instance, Pat Conroy, author of *Beach Music* and Prince of Tides, wrote letters publicly criticizing *Mitchell's Estate*, stating that, "Alice Randall is uncommonly talented... If you censor her book then *Saturday Night Live* has no right to exist." Alice Randall also received support from The Microsoft Corporation, The New York Times Co., Harper Lee, Arthur Schlesinger, and various other prominent people and corporations.

To honor Randall and her courageous legal battle, The Freedom Forum awarded her with the Al Neuharth Award this past summer. The award's intent is to recognize members of society who exemplify "free spirit". One million dollars was divided

between four winners "who span all aspects of our culture," according to Randall. Erik Weihenmayer, the first blind man to climb Mt. Everest; Donald Woods, a South African journalist who opposed the apartheid; Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and Alice Randall, author of *The Wind Done Gone*, all received the Al Neuharth Award this past summer. Mrs. Randall was "flattered" to be put in such company, because "they have all been afraid, and all gone on to do something extraordinary." In Mrs. Randall's situation, she faced a great deal of public scrutiny and publicity because of the legal battle, but because she believed so deeply in her message and her desire to heal those who were injured by *Gone With The Wind*, she persevered. "If you allow yourself to be guided by fear, you stop being a writer."

There is a saying, "to whom much is given much is demanded." With Alice Randall having been given so much, she will continue to give away much of her time in volunteer work. For instance, she will be teaching at Fisk University, Harpeth Hall, TSU, and MBA. In addition to volunteering her time teaching she is devoted to her personal life. "I love being a writer and

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The committee met the next day and heard the story from Miller, Derry, and Blanton. The hearing lasted the whole morning. The three did not hear the decision. The next Monday, they met with Mr. Gioia. He informed them that the Discipline Committee had recommended expulsion, but that he was not sure what to do yet. His dilemma, he told them, was that every previous case involving marijuana had resulted in expulsion. He sent them home for the week until he could come to a decision.

The next Monday, Mr. Gioia delivered his decision. Miller, who never actually smoked or purchased marijuana on the trip, was to be suspended for 3 weeks, then allowed to return to school. Derry and Blanton were both given a sheet detailing their punishment. They were to do all their work at home; they were not allowed to come to class for the rest of the year. They would get their diploma the day after graduation, and would not be allowed to walk during the ceremonies with the rest of their class. All three, Miller included, would have to complete a drug-counseling program at their parents' expense, and fulfill a community service requirement.

I found out about this decision about 2 hours after they did, when Mr. Gioia announced the decision (with names expunged) in assembly.

The student body was decidedly split over the issue. It would be easy to say that all the students were outraged about it, but that was not the case.

"It was awkward being there," Miller recalls, "not knowing who wanted you there and who didn't." Even in his senior year, he said some of his friends he knew since 7th grade turned on him after the incident, citing loyalty to MBA. Teachers were split on the issue. According to Blanton, one of his teachers told him his punishment was "ridiculous." I myself heard multiple teachers who openly questioned the ethical implications of MBA's decision.

Reluctant or not, MBA was acting in complete accordance with its policy, stated in its handbook: "When off-campus conduct reflects poorly on or causes damage to the school, however, MBA reserves the right to take action against students who are always liable for such conduct." (Spenders' legal action against a student will be dealt with by the Discipline Committee or the Honor Council and may be grounds for an immediate dismissal from MBA.)

As a student, it was not difficult for me to contact Mr. Gioia for an interview concerning MBA's drug policy. Despite being a very busy man, he is almost always willing to sit down with a student. He was recently in town for only 24 hours, between two overseas trips, and in those 24 hours he made time to have breakfast with me. We met at Starbucks near MBA. As we were eating breakfast, about 5 different upper-class, usually sun-wearing men approached our table, shook Mr. Gioia's hand, and mentioned something about his respective son. And Mr. Gioia, in every case, made the time to speak to each man individually. His job is certainly not easy. He makes decisions everyday, on subjects ranging from admissions to expulsions, that are guaranteed to make someone mad. And he has to.

When asked if there are parts of MBA's drug policy that are not contained in the handbook, he responded, "Not that I know of," but emphasized that the writing of the policy has been carefully worded to preserve "a human factor of understanding."

He speaks of the creation of a school community in which healthy choices are encouraged as the best method for drug prevention. He does not favor the use of drug testing, based on past experience with it at another school. He told me, "It is extremely costly, it was not always accurate, and students try to figure out a way to beat the system."

Mr. Gioia's opinion about drug testing is certainly not the consensus around Nashville's local schools. Father Ryan High School has what they call an "Early Intervention and Prevention Policy," which requires students and their parents, as part of the admissions process, to sign a contract giving the school permission to transport any student at any time to a drug-testing lab for a drug test. Last winter, 11 juniors from Father Ryan were expelled in one roll sweep, as a result of drug testing.

It can be said that a high school sometimes has just as much of a hand in raising a teenager as the parents. A high school is something of a third parent, a role they knowingly take on. But in cases involving drugs, these schools are not acting like parents at all. They are a governing body, another set of laws and punishments for disciplinary infractions that take place miles beyond the campus. They are a reflection of a community that fears drugs, a community offering positive methods for supposed rehabilitative

NEWS

The Real* Bell Ringer

Should get into this college	Nathan Sykes, Adam Adams, Michael Parn, Deke Shannon, Brian Sperry
Writes too many articles	Will Chappin, Adam Zeller
Onyx Building Bureau Chief	Timothy McQuinn, Aaron Walker
Biggest because of immature worldview	Steven Sykes, Deke Shannon
Editor of school paper	Rhonda Green
Thinks the Bell Ringer is worthless	Ryan Minton
Chorus Ryan Minton is worthless	Adam Zeller
*Demerol not included	

goals. The trial at MBA was akin to double jeopardy; Blanton, Derry, and Miller had already had a trial, and been formally punished for their infractions. However, the trial at MBA was different. They were not being tried for marijuana possession. They were being tried for being arrested, and, most importantly, for people finding out they were arrested. The Discipline Committee, after much deliberation, found them to be guilty of both, and voted to expel them. Only Mr. Gioia himself saved them from a decision that had the potential to literally ruin their educational careers. The Discipline Committee was not acting as anything resembling a parent. As a parent, they simply disowned their sons for something for which they had already been punished. In reaction to the Committee's original decision, Blanton recalls asking the question, "Are they so... strict that they don't care about our futures?"

All MBA students are required to attend graduation. As I watched the seniors get their diplomas, I saw students who had DUIs on their records. I saw a student who spent his entire year on probation after being arrested, in Nashville, for marijuana possession. I saw countless students who had received citations for anything from alcohol consumption to using a fake ID. MBA never did anything to any of these students, because they never knew about them. They may have smoked marijuana, or been arrested, but they never brought discredit to MBA. These drug policies have led to an environment where people are afraid to talk about what they did on the weekends for fear the wrong person might find out. I have no doubt that the school community Mr. Gioia speaks of wanting to create is one of positive peer pressure and mutual understanding, but, in reality, the drug policies and enforcement within the school have created a community of fear

and mistrust. There is a tension in the air that comes from the knowledge that so many offenses go unknown by MBA, a simple argument between two friends could result in one friend going the other one expelled, just by making a few phone calls. Just being at the wrong party at the wrong time could get you suspended or expelled, altering your future forever. It is no coincidence that no student I talked to wished to be named. MBA was not formally informed of the incident in the Cayman Islands; they found out the same way I did, overhearing students talking about it in class. It was a trial by rumor. And, unless this policy is changed, unless something is done to make the jurisdiction of the Discipline Committee at MBA more realistic and less rooted in punitive measures, the drug policies will never do anything for those who truly need help; they will only hurt those who are unlucky enough to fall between the crosshairs of a trigger-happy expulsion machine, eager to wash its hands of them which may tarnish its image. MBA is completely unprepared to "help" a drug addict without an active social life. And the scariest thing is, MBA does not even have the most stringent drug policy in town, just ask the 11 students from Father Ryan.

Mr. Gioia told me, "I think we'll always be somewhat at the mercy of people who have ideas about how to have regulations and rules and preventions, but I really think those are artificial."

He is exactly right.

This article was first intended to be run in the Nashville Scene, but there was not enough space for it. The Bell Ringer is publishing it almost exactly in its original form as it was intended for the greater Nashville population.

A soldier, a survivor, a good father-son speech

by John Eason - Assistant Editor

Broken back. Injured eye socket. Broken finger. Just knocked out. Open wound that burns against the dusty stone walls of Mogadishu. These were just some of the pains that Michael Durant suffered through after having crashed down in the Black Hawk helicopter that he was flying.

Helpless to really move, he could only shoot at the Somalians who were encircling the men with him in the chopper. They were his comrades, his team, and they had gotten him some safety and protection when they saw he was knocked out. Now they were going to die and he was helpless. Unable to remain fully conscious and aware of his surroundings he was in and out mentally, but when he came to, he was greeted by a huge black pipe. Now the Somalians surrounded him like hyenas fighting over their prey.

Whether it was luck, fate, or divine intervention, who knows, but Durant was saved because Mohamed Farrah Aidid wanted a captive to possibly help in negotiations with the U.S. He remained captured for 11 days, not knowing if he was suddenly going to be killed, thrown out into the streets, or tortured, but still he kept believing in his team, his friends, his soldiers.

Now, you try and tell me that this wasn't the best speaker the Father-Son Dinner has ever had. What? Did someone say Steve Spurrier? Yeah, what's his new speech. Guys, I'm going to outline my speech tonight using an acronym, R-E-D-S-K-I-N-S? And by the way, could you see if Ingle could come

to the Skins for me. I'm desperate for a QB. Steve, I was wondering if you have ever seen death floating before your eyes, and no I'm not talking about the Seminoles. I didn't think so. Coming into this event I had high expectations after seeing the movie and learning who Mike Durant was. He didn't let me down. He didn't glorify the events in Somalia and he had a speech full of good points about critical points in his life and how he has changed from them. This guy is a true father. I don't know about Spurrier and Hickman, but when Mike Durant was about to get pounded into mush by the Somalians, he wasn't thinking only about the loss of his life, but also losing his bond with his son.

This man is a true sign of courage and perseverance who is a reminder to us all to never give up no matter what the conditions and to keep on trying new things because one day one will find his true passion in life. Even when he was told that he could never fly again after returning from Somalia, he never gave in. Instead he trained for a year and a half, training himself to participate in two triathlons and a marathon in which he almost qualified for the Boston Marathon. In the end he pulled a Houdini once again by returning to his first love, the chopper and not retiring from it until February of 2001. After all events in the past year, it was great to hear and see a man who has looked extreme adversity in the face and conquered it, so that we as Americans can follow his example. I think his group's motto sums up his attitude best: "Nightstalkers don't quit."

Mr. Kelley plans debate contest for non-debaters

by Will Choppin - Assistant Editor

Mr. Kelly would like to present you with a true chance to speak from your heart. He is running a competition in extemporaneous speaking.

The philanthropy of Alan Yuspeh, a friend of the school who interviewed Dr. Frist in a recent assembly, made the competition. Mr. Kelly said of Mr. Yuspeh: "He believes passionately in the idea that learning how to speak in public is part of the educational process."

The contest is not just for debaters. Mr. Kelly can not stress that fact enough; having debating experience is by no means necessary or even for that matter a good advantage. "The judges will not be looking for Marc Anthony but for Brutus," he says.

Interested students must complete an entry form, available in the main office by the end of the school

day on April 1st.

Students are then to prepare an outline and speak for five minutes on a topic of their choosing. Four judges will judge the speeches, which will be given during activity period in the Paschall Theater. Freshman will speak April 2nd, Sophomores April 4th, Juniors April 9th, and Seniors April 10th. Judges will pick the top four speakers from each grade, who will then speak at their class assembly. The first and second place finishers in each grade will receive plaques, with the first place finisher getting a \$200 Amazon.com gift certificate, and the second place finisher getting a \$100 Amazon.com gift certificate. Out of each class one speaker will be chosen to make a demonstration in assembly.

For more information see the website <http://www.montgomerybell.com/main-speaking.htm>

Rap Sheet



As Jonathan Gotterer emerged from underneath a heap of students who had just flesh-piled him, and began to walk to class, he was approached by Dr. Marro. Marro saw a flaunting of rules and he wasn't going to stand for it. He announced he was dispatching two demerits - to Jonathan. Apparently, while he was being chased down, tackled and mauled, Gotterer had

absentmindedly forgot to make sure his shirt was still tucked in.

Dr. Marro, who is quickly becoming the scourge of MBA's underclassmen said of the event: "There are not enough words to describe the pure joy I got from the look on his face when I gave him demerits, when he realized that, for the twentieth time this year, I got him for the same thing." Perhaps Dr. Marro was not far off in pegging the Freshman as a lawbreaker, though. Not only did Gotterer fail to appeal the dubious charge, but he also forgot to go to Demerit Hall the following Saturday.



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MBA doesn't have to be politically correct

An Anonymous Submission

I was sitting in the quad the other day reflecting on my experiences at MBA. I thought about all the fun times I've had at football games, basketball games, Disco Dances, Spring Breaks, soccer games, and a lot of other stuff. Then I started thinking about how all of these fun times were fun because I was with my friends, laughing, and could be myself.

Then my mind wandered over to why isn't school that fun? Is it because we're at school and have to do work? Yes. Is it because we don't get the same respect from the faculty as we're supposed to give them? Naw. It's a lot of things I thought.

One major topic I thought about was being Politically Correct. I asked myself why MBA has to be so politically correct. We go to an all boys' school, don't we? We are with boys and men all day with the few exceptions of our run-ins with female teachers, aren't we? Then why does everything we do at MBA and in MBA publications have to be PC? Is it because parents read it? I mean, god forbid our parents see how we really are. Is it because if we're not PC it reflects poorly on MBA? If that's the reason, then is MBA teaching us to not be ourselves just so we look good for other people?

Then the question rang in my

head about being a gentleman. Is a gentleman PC? Are Marta Kauffman and David Crane (creators of Friends) gentlemen? Sorry, I mean gentlemen and gentlewomen. Are the Coen Brothers gentlemen? What about the Farrelly Brothers? All of these men and women are involved with crude, despicable, but insanely hilarious humor that extends way beyond the realms of political correctness and into a realm much greater known as success.

None of these writers listen to PC advocates (or at least it doesn't appear so) and nonetheless, the public still loves what they put out. They are all successful at what they do because they mock political correctness. I think of these people as gentlemen and gentlewomen even though they seem to have no respect for others. But I respect them because even though what they are doing might not be politically correct to some, it makes people laugh. And when people laugh, people are happy. And when people are happy, life is good.

Maybe this is just my philosophy. I'd love to hear some rebuttals agreeing with me or disagreeing with me about this philosophy and why MBA has to be so PC.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to thebellringer2000@hotmail.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

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MBA is a school running scared

by Michael Pass- Executive Editor

Any senior who attended the January senior bio class meeting meant to convince us that writing "dirty" senior bios is immoral and dangerous, is fully aware that MBA may be a little out of touch with its students as well as reality.

I have no qualms or concerns about the future of MBA's academic integrity and its commitment to excellence in all areas of study. I am, however, worried that we are headed in the wrong direction in the realm of student life. I fear that MBA may soon lose something that has made it so great for so long: the commitment to fun and the acceptance and understanding of boy's nature. We are boys and we like to horseplay. We are boys and we like to poke fun at each other. We like to do all of these things, and we can do them while simultaneously performing well in the classroom and on the athletic field. A good mixture of work and play is healthy.

It seems that many teachers and parents at this school want us all to be calm, prissy, and studious young gentleman not only in class, but also during lunch, free periods, during the week, on the weekends, and essentially every waking hour as long as we're students at MBA. I agree that we should comport ourselves as gentleman and that we should be good people. I also have been upset and disturbed by some of the out of school incidents that students have recently been involved in. A distinction, however, needs to be drawn between truly immoral and criminal behavior and normal male fun.

I agree that MBA should not tolerate students doing

disreputable or disgraceful things in or out of school. I also agree that there should be restrictions on hazing and what students can talk about in their bios. Banning expletives and blatant drug or alcohol references is understandable. Not allowing students to playfully write about normal teenage parties in their senior bios, however, is a different matter. Not allowing students to fight is understandable. Not allowing students to horseplay during lunch is different.

Some teachers argue bios should be censored because of liability issues. Liability is a frightened authority's best friend when it comes to justifying taking away fun forms of expression and behavior. Why can't we make a reference to a funny story in our senior bios? Because some parent might get offended and sue the school for slander! Why can't seniors tape a freshman to a chair in the quadrangle? "Because the chair might tip over and the defenseless child will not be able to break his fall!" You know what, I think students should not be allowed to wear shoelaces, because somebody's shoes might come untied and he could trip and fall and sue the school. Some political correctness is important and necessary, but sometimes MBA takes it too far.

No parent is going to sue MBA if they think someone's senior bio is too racy. And, if they did try to sue MBA, it would be a joke. No court in America would hear that case. I do agree that students should not be excessively inappropriate or refer to criminal behavior blatantly. I also agree that writing something untrue or seedy about a friend or a Harpeth Hall girl should not be tolerated. Using specific and graphic language, however, is different from vaguely talking about

"partying in the Cayman Islands". Writing about a funny party in your senior bio does not come under the definition of slander, at least in the United States of America.

By focusing so much attention and energy on issues like senior bios and freshmen tapings, MBA is missing the bigger picture. When was the last time faculty and students had an honest discussion about a serious issue like date rape. You probably can't remember, and neither can I. Instead of tackling the sticky and unpleasant subjects that really matter, MBA takes the easy way out. Censoring the senior bios might make a few upset parents sleep better at night, but it certainly does not matter to the majority of our community. Sometimes I wonder if school's train of thought goes something like this: "A student was caught drinking, so we should ban flesh-piles.

These solutions are wrong as well as counterproductive. Someone explain to me how cleaning up senior bios makes MBA a better community. The only result changing the bios might have is making us look good on the surface, without fixing the bad things going on inside. But maybe that is the key to this whole puzzle. Are we so concerned with our reputation that we can live with students doing terrible things as long as no one ever finds out?

I don't know if there is a real solution for a lot of the problems MBA students have with sex and drinking. I do know, however, that suppressing natural and harmless releases of energy and forms of expression will certainly have only adverse effects. If you understand boys' nature at all, you should understand that if MBA keeps

a boy's energy and spirit caged up for five days a week and parents fulfill the duty the rest of the time, every now and then a student will explode. This is the very reason why some kids binge-drink themselves to death in college every year. Their nature has been suppressed for so long that as soon as they get away from their parents, all of their desire pours out in one dangerous flurry.

During our free periods, let us play Frisbee on the lawn. Let us jump on top of each other in a pile of flesh. Let the seniors tape an arrogant freshman to a chair. Let us write silly and harmless senior bios. Spend your energy teaching students about issues that really matter. Instead of these boring and ill-conceived social awareness lectures during activity period, why don't we have some intensive interactive discussions about the roles of alcohol in society? Why don't we have an honest and candid discussion about date rape?

The vast majority of the MBA community is not worried about senior bios. The vast majority is more worried about drinking and driving, sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy, and date rape. Maybe a few fundamentally ideological parents can't stand to see the word "party" in a bio, but I think those parents probably represent a vocal minority. To make MBA a better place, we need to tackle the tough issues, instead of relying on superficial and easy solutions.

The Bell Ringer welcomes submissions and suggestions for future articles. Send articles or ideas to bellringer@hotmail.com or give them a member of the The Bell Ringer staff.

How to improve MBA's exam scores

by Daniel Gluck

Exam week. It's the least wonderful week of the year. It's hectic and dreaded. It's students staying up all night while popping Nodooz like nobody's business, trying to cram in as much information as possible before attempting to pass the next day's test.

Personally, I open up my notes about five o'clock in the afternoon the day before the exam to realize that I remember absolutely nothing about the Russian government under Katherine the Great, only that she died a very unfortunate (although somewhat pleasurable) death. To make the situation worse, after dozing off to sleep at about four am, I have to wake up to the droning sound of my alarm clock only three hours later and drag myself into school. Then, I crash about halfway through the exam, right before

I have to start writing the essays, which count for about three fourths of the credit. Then of course, once the three hours of torture are over (and by the way, we are the only school in Nashville, minus those offering bachelor's degrees with exams that are longer than two hours), I eat lunch, workout, play Playstation for a while, and then realize that I have another exam the next day and my Adderol supplier ran out the night before.

This pattern is not only followed by myself, but by probably 75% of the student body. For some people, exams are just a test that you have to make a 50 on so that you don't have to go to summer school. For others (ahem... over, ahem...achievers) they are a chance to shine and prove that they have paid attention during class

all year. But for all of us, exams are a burden in our lives that unfortunately cannot be done away with. Therefore, as long as we all have to go through this process twice a year, I am proposing a way to make everyone just a little bit happier.

The actual start time of the exam should be moved back to 9:00 or 9:30 am instead of its traditional starting time of eight. If the administration were to switch the start of the exams, all students would find it beneficial to their exam experience. Most boys would be able to get an hour or an hour and a half more sleep before the exam, thus aiding these students in staying awake for the three hours. For the overachiever, he can still wake up at 5 am and start studying; he will just have a whole other hour to do so before the test begins.

And for those people who paid no attention during the year, they can come in to school before 9:00 and ask their teachers questions that they came up with while studying the night before. An administrator might say that if the exam were to start an hour later then boys would just go to bed an hour later. Despite popular belief, it wouldn't matter if the exam began at 7, 8, 9, or 10 am; students would still go to sleep at the same time. Thus, I propose to you, Mr. Gioia, and the rest of the faculty that we move the starting time of exams back in order to accommodate another hour of sleep and to make everyone happier. Those who are going to get 100's will still get 100's and those who are going to fail will at least not be as tired while doing so.

The Senior Class Manifesto

By Adam Zelizer - Co-Editor-in-Chief, Evan Shelby - Photography Editor, and Aaron Waldo

Heretofore the rights of the Senior Classes at MBA have never been codified in a form to preserve them throughout the year. Often the promises for senior privileges are articulated only at the class elections, after which they are only mentioned by whining seniors who have no written basis for their complaints. The Bell Ringer is proud to unveil the Senior Constitution, to be passed down from one graduating class to another. As long as there are seniors getting punished without legitimate justification, the Constitution, or more appropriately the Bill of Rights, will be there to protect them.

Preamble: This provision defends the rights of seniors to be treated like gentlemen. In a school where we dress like gentlemen, behave as gentlemen, and are expected to take responsibility like gentlemen, we are treated like children. To prevent us the opportunity to show our leadership in effective, productive ways for fear that we might possibly do something wrong hamstrings our development into "gentlemen." This document declares started the revolution not for seniors to disobey the rules, but to take more serious positions as MBA's leaders.

Article 1: This clause is to state those rights and basic freedoms that seniors are owed. It is by no means an end-all for senior privileges, however, as a 2/3 majority of seniors at a specially called (or pre-scheduled, either one) class meeting pass an amendment. Every senior is entitled to the rights to:

Section 1: Not be given demerits for behavior without prior warning. [Telling the students to stop before giving them demerits, what an unbelievable idea!] Whether it be for rough-housing in the quad, being loud in the library, or talking in class, teachers should respect seniors enough to think that we can show adequate maturity to cease our offending actions if given the chance.

Section 2: Seniors should not be forced to wait in line in the lunchroom. After four years of having 40 minute lunch periods because of the long lines, we have earned the right to be treated like senior classes before us and retain the right to be leaders in this situation. The massive chaos that is the lunch room could use the guiding light that is senior wisdom.

Section 3: The senior parking lot is no place for teachers to give demerits. In our third year of driving to school, we have the right to self-

government in our territory. If we choose to park like idiots and force others to block us in, so be it. It is NOT a fire-hazard to have a disorderly parking lot (as a faculty member told our class this year). We will live with our own stupidity, and possibly even learn from it.

Section 4: Consensual snow-ball-throwing hurts no one. If we go to the parking lot, the football field, or an open quad, then whom are we harming?

Section 5: The senior room is a right that cannot be abridged. There must be a room on-campus that is open only to seniors. As responsible young gentlemen, it will be our duty and privilege to take care of the room. If by some act the room falls into disrepair, proof of the room's destructed appearance must be made to the senior class president. The room cannot be taken away without visual proof.

Section 6: Again we are invoking the equal rights aspect of this Constitution. As we were flesh-piled and taped incessantly as underclassmen, seniors should be allowed to exercise this right on current underclassmen. We will abstain from these actions in regard to microbes as they are overly pathetic. But freshman and idiots in other classes, you're ours.

Article 2: These rights will be faithfully followed by the seniors when the faculty and staff choose to exercise them:

Section 1: Repeated bad behavior can merit the issuing of demerits. If a student repeatedly disrupts class then there is no argument about his deserving dems.

Section 2: If a certain senior abuses his rights in the lunchroom, then he can be made to wait at the back of the line. Any physical abuse of underclassmen is a violation of this constitution, and can even justify

demerits.

Section 3: If seniors create chaos and disorder anywhere outside of their own parking lot, then they would be subject to punishment. We can't go down to the sophomore parking lot and throw glass all over the pavement. But we retain that right in the junior lot*.

Section 4: Hitting a teacher, staff member, or wealthy school patron with a snowball can warrant demerits. The number of demerits we'll accept is directly related to how wealthy the donor is and how much they've given to the school.

Section 5: Federal offenses are not permitted in the senior room,

while mere state laws can be broken with impunity.*

Section 6: If the little 'uns get injured during a little hazing, then seniors can be responsible. A bruise deserves two demerits, a broken bone five, and a shot to one's... yeeaaaahhhh... gets swift and equal punishment- but not by Mr. Lanier or any soccer players.*

Article 3: The senior slide shall not be looked down upon by teachers. A student already into any college has the right to neglect his studies a bit, continuing the legacy of frugal study habits practiced unofficially by every graduating class in history. After all, we aren't being lazy, we're just trying to enjoy our last months at MBA for everything we can. Aren't we more likely to donate money to the school as alums if we have fond memories of the place?

Article 4: Seniors have the right to refuse running errands for Mr. Gioia if they wish. We are no longer his couriers around Nashville. If he needs something delivered or picked up, then he can either do it himself or pay a simple flat rate to the senior he chooses. We are merely asking for ten percent of the cost of the item to be purchased or delivered.

The rate will change according to fluctuations in the cost of gas and mountain dew.*

Article 5: Enforcement of the Constitution's provisions will be controlled by the senior class officers who will decide when to use this document to challenge the treatment of a senior. However, if these officers forsake their duty, they can be impeached for their crimes. Preferred methods of revolt against an infringement on this code will all begin with an appeal to Mr. Tillman. If he does not correct the wrong, the officers and the offended party will go to the big man himself, to Mr. Gioia.

If this substantial number of passive appeals is not successful, then the entire senior class will be called upon to adopt a policy of civil disobedience and passive resistance throughout school. For example, if the cars of several seniors "stalled" on Harding Road, on Estes, or on Woodlawn, the ensuing tardiness of dozens and dozens of MBA students might shock the faculty into concession.

If not, then an escalation in which the seniors picket these same roads with signs that say "MBA rules" or "We go to MBA, the phone number is..." The ensuing avalanche of phone calls to the office and radio coverage of the inexplicable back up on these major thoroughfares would bring some unwelcome attention to the school.

If the injustice STILL remains and one of the senior class' privileges is forsaken, then the entire class will attack the rights of the faculty and administration. If the senior room is taken, then why should we not have a sit-in in the teacher's lounge? What if we have an unscheduled class meeting in the Gibbs room a few minutes before the Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet in there? What will the reaction be if Mr. Gioia comes to school one day to find his office filled from floor to ceiling with books from the library?

These actions may or may not be directly effective in correcting the wrong. But the long-term effect will be to make an offending teacher think twice before they violate a senior's rights in the future.

Behold the dawning of a new age, when seniors rule the world in their infinite wisdom, as freshman and faculty bow together in front of our awe-inspiring power. Take heed of the authority that is the Senior Class Manifesto!!!



Polls: What MBA's Seniors Are Thinking

Senior Poll

1. Does the senior class has enough privileges?

Yes-19.2%

No- 80.8%

2. Has William Sisk accomplished most of the goals he set at the start of the year?

Yes- 34.6%

No- 65.4%

3. Did you vote for William Sisk?

Yes- 38.5%

No- 61.5%

4. Would Charles Anderson have done a better job?

Yes- 15.4%

No- 84.6%

5. Would Andy Gray have done a better job?

Yes- 38.5%

No- 61.5%

6. Would Jack Turner have done a better job?

Yes- 34.6%

No- 65.4%

7. Has William Sisk done as good a job as previous Senior Class Presidents?

Yes- 86.8%

No- 19.2%

What follows is a non-scientific Bell Ringer poll about issues relevant to the Senior class that reflects only the opinions of those who chose to participate.

The Bell Ringer tried to be as systematic as possible in the sampling for its poll of MBA's 100 Seniors, but acknowledges that its methods could be called haphazard. Data certainly could be obtained proving a correlation between proximity to the Publications Room during Seventh Period and the likelihood of becoming a participant in

the poll. See Commander Carr's article if you need further proof that our poll is meaningless.

Another word of warning about this and other media polls: As, Mr. Coverstone teaches his Seniors in American Government, the media often makes issues out of non-issues through its polling. That is, merely by asking people questions, polling groups make them conscious of issues that they may not have thought about before. By then publishing the results of these polls, the media makes an issue even more

hyped by presenting it as newsworthy. In effect, the media can artificially create news and hot topics of discussion out of an issue that may have been irrelevant in the first place.

Mr. Coverstone also tells his students to use the knowledge they acquire in class for good and not for evil. It is an open question as to whether the Bell Ringer is following his advice here. Discuss it amongst yourselves.

Assembly Poll

As you may or may not know, Ensworth School is seriously considering expanding into a K-12 institution. Ensworth looking at land near Warner Park to build a separate campus for their high school. These questions are meant to test MBA students' reaction to this news.

1. If Ensworth had a High School, do you think it would have affected your decision about where to go to High School (would you have considered it)?

Yes- 23.1%

No- 76.9%

2. If Ensworth had a High School would you have gone to it?

Yes- 11.5%

No- 88.5%

3. Do you think it will compete with MBA athletically?

Yes- 46.2%

No- 53.8%

4. Do you think it will compete with MBA academically?

Yes- 19.2%

No- 80.8%

5. Did you go to Ensworth?

Yes- 30.8%

No- 69.2%

Ensworth Poll

Mr. Gioia has made a concious effort to improve the quality of assemblies this year. Only one assembly has run over this year (and that because of the entertaining and hilarious Bell Breaker announcement), which is a great improvement over last year when many ran over.

1. On a scale of one to ten, rate our assemblies this year.

5.5

2. Do you think that assemblies have gotten better this year?

Yes- 65.4%

No- 34.6%

Commander Carr: The BR's Polls Are Meaningless, Biased, and Just Plain Wrong

Eager to find the true accuracy of the its various polls, but a little hazy about Sophomore Chemistry, we at the Bell Ringer turned to Commander Carr to appraise our findings. Initially he estimated that the standard deviation for a sample of our size (26 out of MBA's 100 Seniors) would have a standard deviation of + 5%.

A little confused himself about his college Social Statistics Course, though, Commander Carr did a little more research and e-mailed us back some bad news. He wrote of his findings: "Yes/No questions are the worst polling questions because you need large, unbiased samples to get a decent level of confidence. You need upwards of 400-500 surveys to have +/- 3% or 4% accuracy at a decent confidence level."

It got worse as he digged deeper.

"In order to be an "unbiased" and valid survey, EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONCERNED POPULATION

NEEDS TO HAVE AN EQUAL CHANCE OF BEING IN THE POLLING SAMPLE. If that condition is not met, the survey is biased and, therefore, subject to huge amounts of error. Y/N surveys not conducted by a reputable polling organization are probably flawed."

Ouch.

Commander Carr's own opinion on our poll.

"It sounds like your poll is something called a "push poll", where you try to obtain support or opposition for a specific agenda item through a specifically worded yes/no question. I think a confidence level for your poll would be good only if you polled the entire class. I hope this helps. I can dig deeper into this social science stuff...but sociology makes my skin crawl."

Big Red wrestlers Selfishness among roll up the mats MBA's sports teams

By Alex Hall

With the beginnings of spring comes the end of a long, hard fought season for the Big Red wrestling team. After three grueling months of salad-and-turkey-sandwich-fueled practices, the team can now consider itself one of MBA's best ever. Although we lost some tough matches to top notch competition like McCallie and Father Ryan, the fight was always there, and it rewarded us with many sweet victories.

Despite losing last year's key leaders like Logan Hughes and the phenomenon who we all know as Phillip Simpson, we were blessed with some tremendous leaders this year. Our leadership

was at its best with captains Jameson "The Machine" Norton, Will "Hoe-bag" Howorth, and Patrick "Patty" Simpson, who led a hearty bunch of nine seniors and the rest of the Big Red army to greatness. Our captains pushed the entire team, including the freshmen (freshmen), through strenuous lifts, early morning runs, and Coach Simpson's insane three hour winter practices with the jacked up thermostat — all key components to our success this year.

From the get-go Coach Simpson stressed that it would take "a will and desire to win." After almost every practice, he reminded us, "You can't hope to win; you have to make it happen." We fed off of those words, pushing ourselves through the takedown drills, six minute matches, and double overtimes that conditioned us for the long road that lay ahead. Such a road included a second place finish in the Ohio tournament, fourth in the volatile McCallie Invitational, and third in the Ryan tournament. Most boast-worthy of our accomplishments, though, the neck-and-neck slugfest in which the Big Red prevailed over Father Ryan and brought home our first ever region championship.

We did not celebrate for very long, knowing State was coming up.

At the duals, onlookers watched us lose an extremely close match to McCallie, thirty five to thirty two. Despite the heartbreak, the Red wrestlers bounced back to place third with a decisive victory over Father Ryan, upping our record with the Irish to three victories and only one loss. No other Big Red wrestling team had dominated the once mighty purple in this way.

Two more weeks of preparation

brought us to the State Duals, where MBA repeated its State Duals finish of third place in another display of relentless wrestling. Several crucial performances helped the cause immensely. William Simpson cemented his place in the family tradition, owning the 103 pound division and becoming a state champion.

Though he lacked the support of his beloved Ashton, senior Will Howorth upset a top seed in the semifinals match and went on to a second place finish in the final match. Powerhouses Jameson Norton and Heath Edwards claimed third and fourth places, respectively. The "fat four", spanning the 171 pound and heavyweight divisions and consisting of Blake Luttrell, Blake Goodman, Ian Thornhill, and Seth Cooper wrestled hard, capturing four second place medals in the process. These days, the four continue to preach their "Being fat is cool" propaganda around the school. Pay them no attention.

Last but obviously not least was Patrick Simpson, who yet again made it look easy by punishing his finals opponent and winning his third straight state championship. Also impressive was his all out sweep of "outstanding wrestler" awards, winning one in every tournament of the season. He was definitely a stand out on this year's team. Although we did not win it all as we had hoped, the season was an overall success. Thank you seniors, we will miss your leadership and abilities.

Next December will see the Big Red wrestlers unroll the mats again on a new season and continue on our quest for MBA's first state championship.

By Sam MacDonald

While this article focuses mainly on athletics, it can be applied to all areas of the school. Over the past few years, a general sentiment among a few MBA athletes has been to specialize or "focus in" on one sport. This theory involves the student quitting other activities and putting all of his efforts into one sport. The ultimate goal for this student is to make himself as good as possible and maybe good enough for a college scholarship in that particular sport.

Montgomery Bell Academy is one of the premier secondary educational institutions in this country. Its roots date back to 1867 and the University of Nashville. The school is built upon the traditions and ideals of discipline, hard work and sacrifice. Every MBA student should be taught the value of these qualities. For over 100 years, students at MBA have excelled in academics, athletics and other extra curricular activities. For this school to be as great as it can be, ALL of us must participate in a variety of activities, including a variety of sports. The most recent MBA state champion teams in football, basketball and track were all led by athletes who participated in more than one sport. This is how it has been since the founding of the school.

I recently heard one of our students say, "I must quit everything else just to 'specialize' in my sport, because that is the only way to be good." I told him that his thinking was incorrect. He is not only contemplating giving up sports that he enjoys playing,

he is deciding whether or not to let down his own friends and schoolmates.

Doesn't this seem selfish? Have not our Division I scholarship athletes all participated in as many sports as possible? Let's look at

who the best athletes in the various sports are since 1992. A common theme will develop. All but three participated in other sports besides their 'specialty'. Below, all the sports at MBA are listed along with the best

athlete in that sport since 1992. Next to the athlete's name is the other sport that the person also participated in.

Cross Country - David Dean (track)
Football - Ingle Martin (basketball),
Will Bartholomew (wrestling, track)
*Golf- Brandt Snedecker
*Wrestling - Philip Simpson
Basketball- Dominique Morris (football, track)
Track - Michael Eskind (football)
Baseball- R. A. Dickey (football, basketball)
Tennis - Bill McGugin (football)
Lacrosse- Matthew McIntosh (football, wrestling)
Soccer - Andy Russ (football)
*Swimming - Jeremy Kane

Every single one of these athletes gave a great deal to this school. The ones that were single sport could not have participated in other sports at the varsity level. By doing so, they made themselves better in their 'specialty'. They also all received college scholarships. I am sure they all are thankful for the opportunity they had at MBA and the chance to participate in a variety of activities. By participating in more than just one thing, these students made MBA a better place and their experience here was much more fulfilling.

Michael Durant, our speaker at the Father-Son Diner said it best, "Nothing takes the place of being on a team!" It is one of our best educational experiences. The lessons we learn while working hard with our classmates and

sacrificing with our peers will mean more to us than anything we learn in a classroom. Whether it be debate, jazz band, theater or sports, MBA needs us to do one thing: PARTICIPATE!! It will continue to make this place a great

school, and it will make our experience here that much more worth while. ROLL RED!!



While lettering in 3 sports, Ingle Martin still didn't spread himself too thin to get a football scholarship to Florida

Heaving P and the Dark Star Squadron: Ultimate bursts onto the scene

by Craig Stewart

ULTRA!!! Unleashing the beastly battle cry from within, Will Chopin pulls the disc, and the game commences. While the likes of athletic powerhouses such as Aaron Waldo and Matthew Doster fight valiantly for the glory the game entails, on the adjacent field, Los Banditos drills for the season ahead...

Behind the leadership of Graham Lea and Coach Russ, the ultimate frisbee team was formed, accepting the name Los Banditos. The first year MBA has had an ultimate team, the season was a continual learning experience. With nearly 0% support from the school, Los Banditos steadily improved in preparation for our first games against Franklin High School and USN. The A team practiced daily to be the best possible; meanwhile, the B team converted from ultimate to "ultramate", and finally to "Ultra" (and sometimes "Communist

Ultra")

Assembling at Vanderbilt on a rainy night, we soundly defeated FHS aka Heaving P. (7-1) With confidence growing, we then beat USN aka Brutal Grassburn. (5-2) To finish the night, we destroyed the Brutal Grassburn women. (8-0) Through this inaugural scrimmage, we proved to MBA that yes, ultimate is a sport.

Next we traveled to Chattanooga for the Deep Freeze juniors tournament on January 26-27. The team opened Saturday's pool play with a convincing 13-2 win over Woodward JV, followed by another big win over Heaving P. (13-3) Despite their loss, Heaving P remained energetic, serenading us with, "MBe excited A!" After that we lost 4-13 to Paideia's Gruel, last year's national champs and eventual winners of the tournament. To round out the day, we lost a nail-biting 12-13 game to Woodward Academy.

After the first day of play, we achieved the 5th seed for the elimination round having only lost to the top two seeds the previous day. We were extremely motivated, having seen a particularly high-quality film the night before; we were pumped for another day of play. Our opening matchup for the morning against Baylor's Dark Star Squadron was nearly non-existent, as only four of their players decided to show up. We advanced deeper into the tourney, only to lose two straight heartbreakers, the first to Cardinal Gibbons' Crusaders of Raleigh, NC (10-11), and the next to Brutal Grassburn. (9-13)

Amassing a 6-4 record for the season, the first ultimate frisbee team is a success.

"We have had a great season," Coach Russ said. "We accomplished more than I had expected, and have set a solid foundation on which we can base

seasons to come. Hopefully, we will eventually be a true varsity sport, competing against other schools in Tennessee."

Although the intramural season is closing, we will compete at USN's River Campus Classic April 13-14. We will need lots of support, and the more people who come out, the greater our energy will be. So far while not our absolute only fan, I would definitely give Mrs. Howell the fan-of-the-year award. Mrs. Howell says, "Ultimate is the greatest spectator sport, wait...Ultimate is the ultimate spectator sport."

Ultimate is fun. This is our team. Let's do something with it.

Lacrosse team aims A Team for the Ages for state title

By Bennett Graham

The dew is wet, and the steam is rising. Down in the valley, the creek runs at a faster pace because of the winter rains. A few spots of grass make up that sacred ground that can be transformed by a few cans of white paint and a couple of metal squares into the MBA lacrosse field.

This is the start of a brand new season for the lacrosse team, a team that no longer has its hotshots (well, Zach thinks he's a hotshot) but nevertheless a team that will become the epitome of a united force that knows and expects every teammate's move... Well, that's kinda what we're hoping for at least as the lacrosse team gets the season off the ground.

With senior leadership from "fat" Russel McWhirter, Zach "the Wall", Clay "Shimmy" Brown, Porter Meadors, Ryan "Schmoo" Mirian, and Michael Wennerlund, the lacrosse team will get started with some preseason tournaments at the "nationally-renowned" USN Round Robin

tournament (yeah right Jeff Gould) and at the Westminster School in the "Southern" town of Atlanta, Georgia. This year, the lacrosse team will set high goals as we will avenge the continuous streak of problems against MUS and will attempt an undefeated season with a difficult schedule featuring out-of-state powerhouses MICDS of St. Louis and Durham Academy of Durham, North Carolina. Our goal is a state championship, a feat that is yet to be accomplished

this year at MBA by any of the fall or winter sports (even though we still have our fingers crossed for the basketball team).

This year brings more hopes than ever for the lacrosse team, and with several Friday night games this year, we hope to have great support and a successful season. There's a lot more to our lacrosse team than just Zach Wall beating up our opponents, so come out and support your Big Red Lacrosse team as we pursue our lofty goal of winning it all.

Lacrosse Home Schedule

Indian Hill (Cincinnati)-Friday 3/9 @ 5:00 PM
Brentwood-Wednesday 3/27 @ 7:00 PM
Park Tudor (Indianapolis)-Friday 4/5 @ 7:30 PM
Father Ryan-Tuesday 4/9 @ 7:30 PM
Christian Brothers-Friday 4/12 @ 7:30 PM
Webb-Tuesday 4/23 @ 6:00 PM
McCallie-Friday 5/3 @ 7:30 PM
USN-Wednesday 5/8 @ 6:00 PM

By Josh Cherry

Ah yes, the familiar smell of human waste mixed with more than a hint of cigarette smoke and K-Mart cologne sold by the gallon. This delightful aroma, which permeates any clothing and lingers for months, became a homey scent at Pla Mor Lanes—kind of like home-cooked brownies, or at least brownies that smell like death.

It was in this atmosphere that the 2001-02 MBA bowling team practiced, competed, and loitered. With 12 members picked (after approximately 50 tried out) the team was the cream of the crop of bowling in the greater Nashville area.

Kicking off the season at Tusculum Lanes, the elite force of combat bowlers tied BA, after junior Josh Cherry posted an unprecedented 242 in match play and who, in this journalist's opinion, just might be the greatest bowler ever to live.

After this slow start, the team went on to win an impressive number of games including victories over Harpeth Hall (a 27-0 squeaker), BGA, Father Ryan, and MTCS with the leadership of seniors Brett Knoll (180's average), Tipton Horn (255 practice

game), Hunter Oldacre, James Schirt, and Geoff Scruggs.

With consistent rolling from the brothers Gerg [Geoff] (12) and Greg (11) and the brothers Eskin [David] (10) and Mathew (9), a never-before seen domination was in the making. Other keggers included David Bilhartz, who with more bowling paraphernalia than an Australian two-toed sloth, is well on his way to a successful bowling career;

Andrew Quinn, who supported the team with many stellar performances; and Brent Collins, who would often scowl after being disturbed while reading (to think that the honor of bowling was not entertainment



enough). Lastly, the heart of the team, Brian Christie, contributed his managerial skills and mooched countless free games.

With coaches Mr. Kelly and Mr. Carr, the team breezed through regular season receiving a bye from district play and advancing straight to the State tournament. Unfortunately, the team lost in the first round to eventual state champion, Baylor, ending on a bad note. With such rising talent, though, next year's team is sure to be excellent in this true sport of kings.

MBA B-Ball proves Inefficiency in State doubters wrong Government

By David Was

The MBA varsity basketball team (16-15) has advanced to the semifinals of the Division II state tournament held at MTSU's Murphy Center in Murfreesboro this Thursday at 11:45 against the Baylor school out of Chattanooga. The game will be a rematch of the January 26th 39-34 loss in which the Big Red shot just 25% from the field. The winner will face the winner of the Father Ryan-Notre Dame matchup on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 in Murfreesboro for the state championship.

Entering the 2001-2002 season, few people outside of the basketball program thought that this year's squad under first year head coach Jerry Meyer had what it took to defend the state championships won in each of the previous two years. However, with just the right mix of senior leadership

and youth, MBA came together late in the season, winning four of its last six regular season games. Then it took care of Middle Tennessee Christian School and Brentwood Academy in the first two rounds of the Division II Middle Region tournament to set up a clash for the third time in the Region finals against bitter rival Father Ryan.

Although the result of this game was a narrow loss, MBA showed that it is a team to be reckoned with in the state tournament. Junior guard Jeffrey Hollis torched the nets for twenty-four points and garnered tournament MVP honors. Senior guard Akeem Turner, the team's most consistent player night-in and night-out, also made the All Region tournament team.

A week ago the team traveled to Rhodes College in Memphis with the #2 seed in the middle region to face the top seed out of the west, Lausanne Collegiate School.

The game was essentially an away game; greatly outnumbering the MBA contingent that made the four-hour drive, the enthusiastic Lausanne fans definitely made their presence felt. Lausanne featured 6'10" center Marc Gasol of Spain, the brother of Pao Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies who possibly will be the Rookie of the Year in the NBA this year. Lausanne's Gasol entered the game averaging close to thirty points per game, but MBA held him to only eleven. The game was tied at halftime at 22.

The season would have come to an end on this night if it were not for the late game heroics of Akeem, who scored a game-tying lay-up in the

last seconds of regulation to send the game into overtime. In the extra session, the three-point shooting of sophomore Jarrett Anderson and some clutch free throws by Turner and Charlie Nelson sealed a 60-58 victory.

The team has worked hard to remain focused in the eleven-day period

in between the sectional game at Rhodes and the upcoming semifinal game.

Although school will be in session as the game takes place this Thursday, MBA's basketball team hopes for all the support that it can get as the road to the state championship continues.

By Jamie Carroll

The state legislature is back in session and they are talking about (surprise) raising taxes. Apparently after the voters nearly stormed the state capitol last time they talked about the income tax, our representatives have realized that they cannot pass an income tax if they hope to keep their jobs. However, when it comes to finding devious ways to take hard earned money away from people, the General Assembly is rivaled only by MBA's registration fees.

The latest proposal is to raise the sales tax to ten percent. Of course, this proposal will take money out of the pockets of the poor, and will cause much business to go to other states with lower sales taxes, but as liberals always repeat, the state government needs money. In fact, one anonymous youthful liberal on campus, who may or may not be attending Yale next year, said that it was childish to want to keep our money instead of giving it to the government, who of course is much wiser than us and knows much better how to spend our money. I started to ask him about all the money that the state wastes every

year, but he mumbled something about having to go home to fill out his four-hour homework quota, or his mother wouldn't give him any TV time.

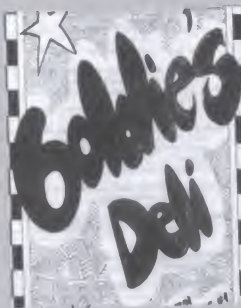
The state of Tennessee makes the people who built the Science Building look like penny pinchers. For starters, there are the road bumps. In my neighborhood, on Kingsbury road over about a mile, there are seven road bumps. Seven is absurd. The last road bump building project cost the state over three hundred thousand dollars. Those bumps just tear up cars and cause ill will towards the people who request the bumps in their neighborhood. Road bumps may seem like a small expense, but it is galling to see the state waste money on a project in my neighborhood that is harmful to my car. Also, TennCare is one of the most generous health care plans in the nation. Anyone from out of state can come and get care, as can anyone who would have trouble getting insurance, no matter what their income. If Dr. Frist had a condition that made him

Continued on Next Page



David Was drives hard to the basket.

Goldie's is a neighborhood deli specializing in a variety of Kosher meats, soups, and sandwiches. We make party trays and can cater any function. From knishes to knockwursts and pickles and pumpernickel, Goldie's Deli has something to take care of the biggest of appetites.



Free 20 oz. fountain drink for all MBA seniors who go to Goldie's on off-campus lunch

Monday-Friday:

9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

4251 Harding Road
Belle Meade Plaza
Nashville, TN 37205

A taste of Italy

By Will Choppin-Assistant Editor

Carrabba's is not like other restaurants. They do not take reservations; it is on a first come-first serve basis. This basis could be my only real criticism of the restaurant, because it produces a huge line of up to an hour and a half of waiting to be seated. But, according to Jeff Ledbetter, protégé to his father Joe Ledbetter, an obviously true champ in the restaurant business (he owns every Houston's in America), restaurant managers favor this basis because reservations could lead to a night of no business. It is a common fear of most restaurant managers that people make reservations but do not fulfill them. But I have no grounds to criticize, because my guest and I were let in immediately. Everyone's happy, let's move on.

The environment inside Carrabba's is great. The host or hostess quickly seats you and the waiter or waitress quickly greets you. Your server will not only gladly ask you for your order, but also will follow your order with a response such as "Great choice!" or "Excellent!" Do the servers lie? Are their agreeable natures just a cunning attempt to trick you? Not my server, because my food was delicious.

I had the Chicken Gratella, a tastefully seasoned chicken breast that

is served with potatoes either roasted or mashed, their own specialty "zucchini today", or a salad. From the first to the last bite, Gratella is a delight. My guest ordered the Chicken Marsala, another chicken breast with Marsala sauce on top that is served with either Fettuccini with red or white sauce or a salad. Though I did not get to taste the



Marsala, it looked sumptuous. To sum up my guest's opinions on both the Marsala and the restaurant, "I was amazed at the wonderful service we received and the great food! The whole restaurant just had an outstanding atmosphere!"

The murals on the wall; the comfortable tables and chairs; the soothing Italian music floating around the whole restaurant. All these qualities add up to a wonderful night at a wonderful restaurant. I could estimate that our waitress stopped by to check on us about 6 or 7 times during the duration of our stay, just to check to see if we were having the best meal ever. Do we lie to the servers? Is our claim that it is the best food ever just a cunning attempt to trick her into bringing us a free dessert or two? Not for us, because it was the best meal I've had at a restaurant. And we did get that free dessert.

New Novelist Alice Randall

(Continued from Page 1)

it is very important to me, but being a mother, a wife, and a friend is more important to me. You can be them all just in the correct order." Even with raising a family and volunteering her time, Alice Randall is writing another novel.

"My next book is an important book for me because I have to let people know for sure what I am doing and where my talent is. . . I have complete faith in it, I love the new book even more." According to Alice Randall, the Afro-Russian poet Pushkin will heavily influence the novel. The next novel will have "big revelations, an international scope, and be exciting." So far, Mrs. Randall has decided to base the novel

on an un-wed mulatto mother. This mother will have struggled through Harvard raising her child alone with an intense burden of academic rigors. Eventually she will find herself as a professor at Vanderbilt University. In addition to writing another novel, she will continue to write songs and work in the music business.

Ms. Randall was educated at Harvard University, has written several hit songs, teaches, raises a family, and writes. After the success of her latest novel *The Wind Done Gone*, she added to her impressive reputation.

Night of the Stars

by Jack Bryant - Assistant Editor

One of the most famous country music stars, Kenny Chesney was at MBA February 19, 2002. It is a rare event that something or someone exciting outside of our own electrifying faculty, comes to MBA. Thinking at first that we were actually going to have an entertaining special assembly, I was excited. However when I realized that the show would not be until a few weeks and at night with 25\$ as the cheapest ticket price, I was depressed that we wouldn't miss any class for it, but still excited for the opportunity to see big name stars in an intimate environment.

Famous female country star and charismatic MBA mother/hockey fan Barbara Mandrell was the master of ceremonies. She was a firecracker. What could have been a boring task of closing the silent auction was made entertaining by her attitude and command on stage. Items auctioned off included but were not limited to a signed Kenny Chesney

Earlier that night when I had seen Kenny wandering around the Davis Building, he look small, tan, and arrogant. However, when he took the stage, Kenny hardly looked older than an MBA senior and spoke quite candidly about him high-school experiences. Two of his songs were based on high-school friends and experiences. By the time his set was over, horrible images of a Dr. Clark physics test were looming in my mind and I had to hurry home. Upon later reflection I have decided that Kenny was good, but the performances by Brent and Mike were better. Perhaps it's the fact that I had heard the Chesney songs before, or Kenny was having a bad night, or by the time he got on Newton's law were running through my mind, really I'll never know. But all in all, the evening was as entertaining as I could have thought.

Barbara Mandrell was the Master of Ceremonies. She was a firecracker.

double platinum album, a Reeba McIntire costume, a signed Frank Wyckek jersey, and a Predator's game helmet signed by the team. After she was through auctioning off the first half of items, the show began.

To my pleasant surprise, the first performer, Mike Reid, singer/songwriter and "fat middle-aged MBA father", was incredible. Using only a piano, Mr. Reid preformed his two songs, both about love, with passion. His performance was representative of his remarkable talent and love for music.

Following his performance, Barbara Mandrell played the roll of auctioneer again. The second performer, Brent Rowan, who has played guitar on over 100,000,000 records sold, was first-rate. His songs, preformed with out vocals and only an acoustic guitar were short, but without a doubt demonstrated his talent. He also played samples from famous songs he helped compose, for instance, a recent smash hit by Toby Keith. After his brief set was over, Barbara Mandrell auctioned off even more celebrity items. The next performer was a talented surprise. An 8th grade Harpeth Hall student, Alana Grace, preformed two songs next. The first she preformed was generic pop driven. However her second song, an Amy Grant cover, was simple and moving. After her there was one left. With the final items having been auctioned off, Kenny took the stage.

Income Taxes (Continued from last page)

uninsurable, he would be eligible for TennCare.

The reason the state government is able to continue these, and many other wasteful practices, is because there is no competition. Unlike a private company, the state will never go out of business. If they waste money, well, they can always take more from taxpayers. There are many wasteful social programs the state can cut, starting with a permanent ban on road pumps, and moving on to setting tighter restrictions on eligibility for TennCare. If certain liberals on campus truly feel that the state needs more of their money, they can write a check to the state government. But to ask the other Tennesseans to subsidize this waste through involuntary taxes is just unfair.

A visit with Tommy White

by William Sisk

Tommy White left MBA during the middle of his 8th grade year. Many people remember Tommy for his energetic, UT spirit and his unstoppable backyard basketball shot, but what people often forget is his love for seeking a deeper truth. When I was asked to interview the legend now known as the Big Orange Rollercoaster, I quickly thought about the deep truth that I ought to seek in order to reveal who Tommy White is today. Through a series of questions, this is what I found out:

Bell Ringer: After leaving MBA, where did you go to school? Did you like your new school more? Why, why not?
Tommy White: I went to Bellevue Middle. It really sucked. Everybody seemed to think that I was some kinda momma's boy or something.

BR: What high school do you go to? Have you enjoyed it? Why, why not?

TW: I go to Hillwood High. I have to say the athletics are not quite as successful as yours at MBA. But yes I do enjoy it. There are girls you know, and all I have to say about them is 'wow-ee, wow-ee.'

BR: Do you have a girlfriend/girlfriends?
TW: No girl has yet to discover the wonders that lie beneath me.

BR: What is your definition of a gentleman? Would you still consider me a gentleman if I didn't wear socks? (Just to see how similar the outside world's ideals are to MBA's)

TW: I guess a gentleman is what your Student Handbook defines it as. William, why would not wearing socks make you not a gentleman? That is just a stupid question. By the way, I'd wear socks because your feet stink.

BR: Where are you going to college?

Are any of your friends going with you?

TW: What kind of question is this, of course I am going to Big Orange Country. Yeah some of my NASCAR and football watchin' buddies are going too. James, Jess, and Robbie, I expect to see all of you in the fall.

BR: Are you involved with any sports

to be Will Brackin. Will and I are still best friends. My least favorite, Alex Newman. Do I have to say anything else?

BR: Who was your favorite teacher? Why? Least favorite?

TW: Dr. Barrow was my favorite teacher because of his crazy yet pitiful antics.



Tommy White, fallen member of the Class of 2002, eats during his shortened eighth grade year at MBA.

or extracurricular activities at Hillwood?
TW: I would have to say that I got out of the sports when I arrived at Hillwood. They don't really incline you to want to play, if you know what I mean. I am an active member of the Ecology, Spanish, Break Dancing, and International Students Clubs.

BR: Who was your favorite person (student) at MBA while you were here? Least favorite?

TW: My favorite student would have

Mrs. Thurman was my least favorite because every time I got in trouble I had to spend time in her office. Once again, wow-ee, wow-ee.

BR: What was up with the whole "OOOOHHH BEATING!" thing?

TW: I just thought that Michael Pass always needed a good beating. I still love ya man.

BR: Have you ever wished you could come back to MBA? If no, how much money would Mr. Gioia have to pay you

to make you come back? If money isn't what you're looking for, what would you want?

TW: He would have to fork out most of the ridiculous endowment fund that never gets used. If not money, a membership to the cheese of the month club.

BR: If you could have a conversation with any person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

TW: I'd like to talk to Andy Garcia. Isn't that what everybody else says?

BR: What are you looking to do with your life?

TW: I want to be a lawyer, just like Perry Mason. If not a lawyer, maybe start my own Internet porno site. That's where the big bucks are.

BR: Do you believe in God? Why or why not?

TW: Yeah, because he created us.

BR: What has been the best part of going to a co-ed school? The girls' locker room like in Porky's?

TW: The girls are phenomenal. And yes, their locker room is quite nice too. It smells all fresh and clean, just the way it should be. But I have got to say that this guy named Chase Tweel and his sidekick, Harita Khampakasy, make it all worthwhile.

BR: What is the one thing you miss most about MBA?

TW: Let me think...taking pride in the sports. I would even settle for not being embarrassed by them. I also miss all the interesting characters that go there.

BR: Do you still keep up with any old friends from MBA?

TW: Oh yeah, I see Will Brackin, James Shert, and Ford all the time. I run into some of the guys every once in a while.

Decision 2002: Seniors pick Colleges early

Arizona State University
Jamie Sperring

Columbia University
Adam Zelizer

University of Edinburgh (Scotland)
Peter Callister

Hampden-Sydney College
Tripp McKelvey

Harvard College
Brian Charnock

Indiana University-Bloomington
Albert Marks

University of Mississippi
Ford Manning, James Sehr

New York University (NYU)
Deke Shearon

University of North Carolina
Walt Sharpton

Northwestern University
Jonathan Estes

University of New Mexico
Joel Gabbert

University of Pennsylvania
Michael Pass

Princeton University
Andrew Wilson

Southern Methodist University
Bubby Crowe

Tulane University
Robert Bracken

Vanderbilt University
Will Brackin, Allen Callison,
Warner Jones, Graham Lea,
Matthew Haitas

University of Virginia (UVA)
Jamson Norton

Wake Forest University
Drake Jarman

Washington & Lee University
Will Howorth

College of William & Mary
Evan Shelby

Williams College
Jimmy Brittin

Yale University
Steven Syverud